(b) what are the details of the capacity and the number of cylinders supplied by each of the units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA):(a) and (b) So far only one firm has imported 3400 MT of LPG under the parallel marketing system which has been sold to bulk consumers.

**Control over Rates of L.P.G. Cylinder**

365. SHRI GAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have no supervision and control over the rates of L.P.G. cylinder marketed through private agencies; and

(b) whether it is a fact that at least 82 companies have been given the registration for L.P.G. marketing under parallel market system and except a few none among them have the basic infrastructures like storage, transportation etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA):(a) The LPG imported under the Parallel Marketing System can be sold at market determined prices. There is no price control by Government.

(b) Under the Parallel Marketing System private agencies have been allowed to import and market LPG, for which there is no system of registration with or granting licence or permission by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. However, 50 parties have given intimation of their plans to undertake parallel marketing of LPG. Since adequate infrastructural facilities are not readily available, the parallel marketeers are setting up facilities for import, storage, bottling and transport of LPG.

**Increase in Prices of LPG Cylinders**

366. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:
SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of LPG cylinders have been increased by above 25 per cent (i.e. by Rs. 15/- per cylinder) despite drastically reducing the customs duty thereon with effect from January 11-12, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the details and circumstances leading to this decision; and

(c) whether Government have received reactions and representations from consumers, trade and industry, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) to (b) In the current prices of LPG the full costs of processing and marketing are not being recovered. Prior to those increase each cylinder of LPG for domestic use bore a subsidy of about Rs. 71/-. In order to partially reduce the subsidy the prices of LPG (domestic) packed was increased by Rs. 15/- per cylinder initially w.e.f. 12-1-1994. However, taking note of various representations received the increase was fixed at Rs. 10/- per cylinder effective 14-1-1994, reducing the subsidy on each LPG cylinder to Rs. 61/- approximately. In order to augment the availability of LPG both for domestic use under the parallel marketing scheme as well as for industrial and petro-chemical industry, the custom duty on import of LPG has been reduced from 85% to 25%.